

## U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office, Utah

### FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## GREATER DEADMAN BENCH OIL AND GAS PRODUCING REGION

# QUESTAR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COMPANY

UT-080-2003-0369V FES 07-49



January 2008

#### BLM MISSION STATEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times.

Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangelands, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, air and scenic, scientific, and cultural values.



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Vernal Field Office 170 South 500 East Vernal, UT 84078 (435) 781-4400 Fax: (435) 781-4410

http://www.blm.gov/utah/vernal/index.html



IN REPLY REFER TO: 1790 UT-081 UT-080-2003-0369V

November 9, 2007

Dear Public Land User:

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Greater Deadman Bench Region is hereby submitted for your review. It was prepared to analyze the potential impacts of Questar Exploration and Production Company's field development proposal. The proposal includes up to 1,020 natural gas and 219 oil wells, about 170 miles of new roads and 235 miles of pipelines, 31 miles of power lines, 22 new central tank facilities and 15 new gas compressor stations. In all, approximately 4,561 acres, or 5% of the total project area, would be disturbed by the proposal.

The GDBR involves approximately 98,785 acres located in Townships 6 to 8 South, Ranges 21 to 25 East, Salt Lake Base Meridian, about 20 miles south of Vernal, Uintah County, Utah. The GDBR encompasses an already developed oil and gas field. At the time of the initiation of the EIS process (in 2003), the GDBR contained approximately 278 existing oil or water-injection wells, and 300 gas wells. Also, about 57 miles of primary roads and 314 miles of secondary roads have been constructed within the region.

This FEIS analyzes two alternatives in detail. They are the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternatives. The FEIS also contains a discussion of eight other alternatives that were considered but dismissed from detailed analysis. The Proposed Action alternative is the agency preferred alternative.

The FEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as other regulations and statutes, to address possible environmental and socio-economic impacts which could result from implementation of the project. This FEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public, and the Decision Maker, of the impacts associated with implementing the proponent's exploratory drilling proposal, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit other agencies and the public for comments. A Record of Decision is expected to be signed following the 30-day FEIS availability period.

If you wish to submit comments on this FEIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible, with references to page numbers and chapters of the document. The most useful comments will contain new technical or scientific information, identify data gaps in the impact analysis, or will provide technical or scientific rationale for opinions or preferences. Please refer to "Greater Deadman Bench EIS" in your correspondence. Written comments will be accepted

by fax, email, or letter for 30-days following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency. Please provide your comments to:

Bureau of Land Management Attn: Stephanie Howard 170 South 500 East Vernal, Utah 84078 Fax: 435-781-4410

UT Vernal Comments@blm.gov

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. For further information concerning the document, please contact Stephanie Howard at (435) 781-4469.

Sincerely,

William Stringer

William Stringer

Vernal Field Office Manager

Enclosures - As Stated